

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /123 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9552

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS USUN 3361

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, CI

SUBJ: UN OPI PRESS DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS ON CHILE

1. WILLISM POWELL, DIRECTOR OF UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION'S PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS DIVISION, MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO UN CORRESPONDENTS SEPT. 21 REGARDING HIS RECENT STAY IN CHILE.

2. POWELL WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE SAFETY OF A GROUP OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS FROM BRAZIL, MEXICO, ECUADOR, PERU, COLOMBIA, GUYANA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, VENEZUELA, WHO WERE IN SANTIAGO TO ATTEND A UN-SPONSORED EDITORS' ROUNDTABLE. POWELL REPORTED THE GROUP WAS CONFINED AT A HOTEL ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES FROM THE CENTER OF SANTIAGO. THEY WERE CONFINED TO THE HOTEL FOR THE FIRST DAY FOLLOWING THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW. POWELL AND OTHER UN OFFICIALS, ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP, CONTACTED THE FOREIGN OFFICE FOR "SAFE CONDUCT" OUT OF CHILE. THE MILITARY JUNTA AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE WERE VERY COOPERATIVE AND "SAFE CONDUCT" WAS GIVEN. THE GROUP WAS FLOWN TO ARGENTINA ON A UN-CHARTERED PLANE. WHILE CONFINED TO THE HOTEL, THEY HEARD SPORADIC SHOTTING, MORTAR AND MACHINE GUN FIRE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLENDE'S DEATH CAME OVER THE RADIO. "THE PRESIDENT HAS COMMITTED SUICIDE."

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NO UN EMPLOYEES WERE HURT IN THE OVERTHROW. ON THE PLANE

WITH POWELL, UN OFFICIALS, AND THE EDITORS, WERE THREE
OTHER JOURNALISTS AND SIX TO EIGHT AMERICAN TEENAGE
SWIMMING CHAMPIONS WHO HAD BEEN COMPETING IN A MEET IN
SANTIAGO.
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